to Barauni to augment the imported crude supplies to Barauni Refinery.

(ii) As a short time arrangement crude supplies to Barauni Refinery has been augmented by supplying imported crude oil by Rail from Haldia.

(iii) Govt. has also drawn up measures to increase the crude production in North Eastern Region to enhance crude availability.

(iv) Govt. has allowed transportation of crude oil from Chennai to Narimanam by road for processing at MRL Narimanam Refinery.

STATEMENT

Company-Refinery wise installed capacity, actual crude throughput and capacity utilisation

Name of the Under taking/ Refinery	1993-94			1994-95			1995-96		
	Installed capacity $	Actual crude T'put	Capacity Utilisation (%)	Installed capacity $	Actual crude T'put	Capacity utilisation (%)	Installed capacity $	Actual crude T'put	Capacity utilisation (%)
IOC. Guwahati	0.85	0.91	107.1	1.00	88.0	88.0	1.00	0.84	84.0
IOC. Barauni	3.30	2.00	67.3	3.30	2.22	67.3	3.30	2.32	70.3
IOC. Gujarat	9.50	9.43	99.3	9.50	9.89	104.1	9.50	10.16	106.9
IOC. Haldia	2.75	3.11	113.1	2.75	3.26	118.5	2.75	3.41	124.0
IOC. Mathura	7.50	8.52	113.6	7.50	8.38	111.7	7.50	8.33	111.1
IOC Digboi	0.50	0.55	109.4	0.50	0.54	108.0	0.50	0.56	112.0
BPCL. Bombay	6.00	7.20	120.0	6.00	7.51	125.2	6.00	7.34	122.3
HPCL. Bombay	5.50	6.02	109.5	5.50	5.23	95.1	5.50	5.97	108.5
HPCL Visakh	4.50	4.45	98.9	4.50	5.01	111.3	4.50	5.04	112.0
CRL. Cochin	4.50	4.86	108.0	4.50	5.13	114.0	7.50	7.42	98.9
MRL. Madras	6.50	5.73	88.2	6.50	6.92	106.5	6.50	5.60	86.2
MRL. Narimanam		0.13	@	0.50	0.38	76.0	0.50	0.37	74.0
BRPL. Assam **	1.35	1.17	86.7	1.35	1.18	87.4	1.35	1.22	90.4
MRPL. Mangalore									
Total	52.57	54.30	102.9	53.40	56.53	105.9	56.40	58.58	103.9

@ Started production w.e.f. 1.11.1993

$ Installed capacity as on 1st April of the initial year

** Commissioned in March 96

[English]

Annual Plan

900. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bihar Government has strictly utilised the funds as per the sanctioned annual plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and action taken by the Government on the diversification of Plan norms;

(d) the amount provided for the annual plan by the Planning Commission during 1995 and 1996;

(e) whether the amount provided is sufficient for the State; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (f). Planning Commission sanctions the Annual Plan outlay of the States in consultation with the State Governments. The sanctioned Annual Plan outlay is the

aggregate of Central Support (including Normal Central Assistance based on modified Gadgil-Mukherjee formula) and the State's Own Resources including Additional Resource Mobilisation, if any.

The sanctioned Annual Plan outlay for Bihar for 1994-95 was Rs. 900.00 crore(revised) and for 1995-96 it was Rs. 972.00 crore(revised). The anticipated expenditure for 1994-95 was Rs. 967.60 crore and the figure for 1995-96 is yet to be received.

Oil Pool Account

901 SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL
SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the oil pool deficit at the end of the current financial year is likely to balloon to Rs. 15,500 crore as against the initial projection of Rs. 9,700 crore;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether another round of hike in prices of petroleum products appears imminent, following increase in the crude prices in international market and burgeoning oil pool deficit; and

(d) if so, the decision taken by the Government to ward off the petro goods supply crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d). The cumulative outstandings of the oil companies from the oil pool account which were Rs. 5,700 crores as on 31.3.96 are estimated to rise to Rs. 15,500 crores by 31.3.97. Deficits have arisen in the pool account because the sales realisation from the products did not fully cover the costs incurred. The position of the oil pool account is monitored on a continuous basis and remedial measures taken to contain the deficit.

Expedition to Antarctica

902 SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE
SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a siesmic observatory in Antarctica;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken decision to launch the next expedition i.e. 16th expedition to Antarctica;

(d) if so, the details and the preparations made therefor;

(e) the main purpose for which the next expedition proposed to be launched; and

(f) whether any foreign country is also undertaking the expedition with our scientists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Studies on seismic activities as recorded in Antarctica will be undertaken for the first time from the Indian station by the scientists from the CSIR Laboratory, namely National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI), Hyderabad. A scientist from NGRI will accompany the 16th Expedition as a summer member with the task to identify a suitable location in the Schirmacher Oasis region of Antarctica where this Observatory can be commissioned. Subsequently, it is proposed to set up a digital broad band seismograph as a part of the seismic observatory with the following scientific objectives:

(i) To monitor and study the frequency and strength of seismic activity in Antarctica.

(ii) To record seismic shocks originating over the Indian Ocean sector of the Southern Oceans.

(iii) As a part of world wide seismic network, it is envisaged that the data generated from this Observatory will help to delineate the deep geological structure of Antarctica and also the gross seismic features of the earth as a whole.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The 16th Indian Scientific Expedition to Antarctica is tentatively scheduled to be launched on the 12 December, 1996 from Goa. The expedition will sail on the chartered Norwegian ice-strengthened vessel 'MV Polar Bird' and will be accompanied by two chartered Ecquirell helicopters. These helicopters will be used for rendering air support from ship to the Indian Station 'Maitri' and will also assist in establishing field camps for scientific work. All arrangements concering the launching of the expedition including the finalisation of the scientific and logistic objectives have been completed. Orders for all store-items including food provisions, kit clothing, medicines, spares for various life support systems, fuel and communication equipments, etc. have already been placed.

The 16th Antarctic Expedition will comprise of 62 members out of which 39 are scientists drawn from 21 national institutes, laboratories and universities. The remaining 23 members have been drawn from the Indian Army who will provide the essential logistic support to the expedition. The expedition will have two components comprising of 26 winterover members (who will return to India in March, 1998) and 36 will be summer members (who will return in March, 1997). This expedition will be led by a Scientist from the India Meteorological Department.